



EDGAR STREET

THE original street plan of early New Amsterdam is still preserved in many parts of lower Manhattan. The shortest street in New York, Edgar street, is one of the most picturesque of these survivals linking the busy modern city with the past. In the very early days when the Hudson River extended to the present line of Greenwich street this short thoroughfare probably ran from what is now Trinity place to the waterfront.

A little to the north of Edgar street was the West India Company's orchard and garden extending as far as Broadway. To-day a towering skyscraper occupies this site and elevated railroads bound either end of this short thoroughfare. What was once a stately mansion has long stood on the northern side of Edgar street; many years ago it fell from its high estate and became a hotel frequented by foreigners.

The street is named after the old Edgar mansion in Greenwich street, where in 1834 Daniel Webster made an address to the people on the inauguration of Cornelius W. Lawrence, first elected Mayor of New York. To-day the buildings in the vicinity bear almost without exception signs in foreign tongues. The neighborhood has come in recent years to be known as the Syrian quarter, and in pleasant weather you may see picturesque figures seated along Edgar street smoking outlandish looking hookas.

